



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Excerpts on Anti-Semitism from the 2015
U.S. Department of State Country Reports on
Human Rights Practices**

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Introduction

This document excerpts sections dedicated to “anti-Semitism” in the 2015 Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Instances of anti-Semitic discrimination, vandalism, harassment, violence, as well as government investigations and responses (such as anti-bias and tolerance programs) in eighty countries are delineated here to provide an illustrative overview of types of anti-Semitic activity Jews currently face around the world. These abstracts also note the current Jewish populations in these countries, based on local estimates.

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices are submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended. The report represents events for the calendar year 2015 only. The Department of State prepared this report using information from U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, foreign government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, and published reports. The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), working with embassies abroad and offices within the Department, collects and corroborates information while drawing from a wide variety of reputable sources.

The full 2015 U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices can be accessed at <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>.

This document was created in November 2016 from the full 2015 U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Any changes made to the full report after the November 2016 date will not be included in the excerpts. Please visit state.gov/humanrightsreport/ for the full report.

Algeria

Jewish Population: Some religious leaders estimated that the country's Jewish population numbered fewer than 200 persons. Local Jewish community leaders estimated the number to be in the low hundreds.

"The media did not publish any known derogatory political cartoons or articles directed at the Jewish community, but observers found anti-Semitic postings on social media sites.

Jewish leaders reported that the Jewish community faced unofficial, religion-based obstacles to government employment and administrative difficulties when working with government bureaucracy.

In August opponents of the Minister of National Education and her proposal to teach primary schools in the local dialect instead of Arabic resulted in social media smear campaigns accusing her of having Jewish heritage.

On October 16, the presidential chief of staff and secretary general of the National Democratic Rally political party, Ahmed Ouyahia, accused Ferhat Mehenni, singer and leader of the Kabyle Independence Movement, of "selling Algeria to the Jews."

In October several young Algerians published an online video entitled "Jews in the Streets of Algeria: What Will Happen?" The video depicted a young man wearing a kippah, pretending to be Jewish, and the numerous insults and harassment he received by people on the street of Algiers. The makers of the video concluded what they called a "social experiment" by stating, "Algerians do not want to smell the odor of Jews in their country." Within a week the anti-Semitic video received more than 100,000 views, more than 1,000 likes, and several hundred dislikes."

Andorra

Jewish Population: Unofficial estimates placed the size of the Jewish community at approximately 100 persons.

"In April 2014 two men assaulted and severely beat a 21-year-old Jewish Andorran outside of a discotheque in the city of La Massana. The victim maintained that the assault was motivated by anti-Semitism, a charge the single assailant in custody denied. The case remained under review."

Argentina

Jewish Population: The Jewish community consists of approximately 250,000 persons.

"Sporadic acts of anti-Semitic discrimination and vandalism continued. The Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations (DAIA) received complaints of anti-Semitism during the year.

The most commonly reported anti-Semitic incidents were slurs posted on various websites, graffiti, verbal slurs, and the desecration of Jewish cemeteries. For example, in August in the

town of Colonia Avellaneda, Entre Rios Province, swastikas, pro-Nazi slogans, and terms such as “white power” were spray painted on the walls lining the main thoroughfare.

On January 19, a mob of 10 persons attacked the hostel Onda Azul, popular with Israeli backpackers, in Chubut Province. During a four-hour siege, the attackers shouted anti-Semitic slogans, beat the tourists, damaged the premises, and allegedly stole the tourists’ possessions.

On April 20, then president Kirchner posted statements on her blog that the Jewish community leadership was part of a conspiracy to destabilize the government.

The investigation continued into the 1994 bombing of the Argentina Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) community center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 persons. The federal prosecutor investigating the case maintained the arrest order for eight Iranians for their alleged involvement in the bombing. In 2013 the country signed and ratified a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Iran to investigate jointly the AMIA case, and the government sought to negotiate with Iran on the specifics of the agreement’s implementation. Jewish community representatives and opposition political leaders expressed concerns the MOU could undermine the country’s existing judicial investigation. In 2013, after the Jewish organizations AMIA and DAIA filed suit against the agreement, a federal court ruled the MOU unconstitutional, and the government appealed the decision. One day after assuming office on December 10, the government of President Mauricio Macri withdrew the appeal. On December 22, the Criminal Court of Cassation formally accepted the government’s action, making final the ruling that the MOU was unconstitutional.

On January 18, Alberto Nisman, the special prosecutor in charge of the AMIA bombing investigation since 2004, was found dead of a gunshot wound to the head. Nisman was scheduled to testify the next day before a congressional committee concerning his allegations that then president Kirchner and associates conspired, through the MOU, to convey impunity to the Iranians suspected of planning and executing the AMIA bombing. At year’s end investigations into his unsolved death continued.

On August 6, a court commenced preliminary hearings in the AMIA bombing cover-up trial, which accuses government and law enforcement officials and a leader of the country’s Jewish community of complicity and false testimony to cover up the 1994 AMIA bombing.

On October 16, the Supreme Court, reviving the dormant investigation into bombing, called for the arrest of two suspected Lebanese Hezbollah members charged with orchestrating the bombing, which killed 29 persons and injured 242.”

Australia

Jewish Population: According to the 2011 census, the country’s Jewish community numbered 97,300 persons.

“During the 12-month period ending in September 2014, the nongovernmental Executive Council of Australian Jewry reported 312 anti-Semitic incidents logged by the council, Jewish community umbrella groups in each state and the Australian Capital Territory, and community security groups. These incidents included vandalism, harassment, and physical and verbal assaults, such as pelting Jewish persons walking to and from synagogues with eggs.”

Austria

Jewish Population: According to the Vienna Jewish Community's figures, the Jewish community in the country numbered approximately 7,300 persons.

"The NGO Forum against Anti-Semitism reported 255 anti-Semitic incidents during 2014. These included nine physical assaults in addition to name calling, graffiti and defacement, threatening letters, dissemination of anti-Semitic writings, property damage, and vilifying letters and telephone calls. The government provided extra protection to the Vienna Jewish Community's offices and other Jewish community institutions in the country, such as schools and museums, following the January terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, after Jewish officials reported a rise in anti-Semitic attacks by Muslims and increased fears of terrorist attacks within the community.

In September a Linz court convicted a Turkish man of neo-Nazi activity for posting pictures of Adolf Hitler on Facebook along with a statement praising the death of Jews and sentenced the man to a two-year suspended prison sentence. The case was initially closed because the prosecutor argued that the postings were a legitimate expression criticizing Israel at the time of the Israeli military operation against Hamas in 2014. In February the Linz chief prosecutor ordered the resumption of the investigation.

There were several cases of neo-Nazi-related vandalism and hate speech, including death threats, "hate speech" on the internet, and the hacking of the website of the Mauthausen Memorial, a former concentration camp.

School curricula included discussion of the Holocaust, the tenets of different religions, and advocacy of religious tolerance. The Education Ministry offered special teacher training seminars on Holocaust education and conducted training projects with the Anti-Defamation League."

Bahrain

Jewish Population: According to community members, there were between 36 and 40 Jewish citizens (six families) in the country.

"Some anti-Jewish political commentary and editorial cartoons occasionally appeared in print and electronic media, usually linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, without government response."

Bangladesh

Jewish Population: There was no Jewish community in the country

"There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts, but some newspapers occasionally printed anti-Semitic articles and commentary."

Belarus

Jewish Population: Jewish groups estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 persons identified themselves as Jews. Most were not active religiously.

“Anti-Semitic incidents continued but were on the decline; authorities sporadically investigated reports of such acts. Jewish community and civil society activists expressed concern over the concept of a “greater Slavic union” that was popular among nationalist organizations, including the neo-Nazi group Russian National Unity, which remained active despite its official dissolution in 2000. Neo-Nazis were widely believed to be behind anti-Semitic incidents across the country. Anti-Semitic and Russian ultranationalist newspapers, literature, DVDs, and videotapes imported from Russia were widely available. The government did not promote antibias and tolerance education.

On March 26, Svetlahorsk city authorities opened a criminal case to investigate vandalism of a number of public buildings, including a hospital, across the city with drawings of Stars of David and the saying “Passover [Coming] Soon, There Will Soon Be Blood.” There were no reported developments in the case.

On April 21, independent journalists reported that they saw swastikas painted on gravestones at the Jewish cemetery in the town of Horki. The correspondents did not file a case with the police, and authorities did not launch an investigation.

In December 2014 in Homyel, a local rabbi reported that vandals painted swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on a Jewish religious and secular community center. Members of the local Jewish community filed a case with police, but by year’s end no perpetrators had been identified and the case was closed.

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Belgium

Jewish Population: The country’s Jewish community was estimated at 40,000 persons.

“There were 130 reports of anti-Semitic acts in 2014. Anti-Semitic acts included some physical attacks but consisted mainly of verbal harassment of Jews and vandalism of Jewish property. According to the Interfederal Center for Equal Opportunities, such attacks decreased after military conflict ended in Gaza. Online hate speech continued to be a problem. The center also reported discrimination against Jewish customers by a doctor, a retail establishment, and a restaurant. Jewish groups reported anti-Semitic statements and attitudes in the media and in

schools, especially but not exclusively related to the government of Israel and the Holocaust. The law prohibits public statements that incite national, racial, or religious hatred, including denial of the Holocaust. The government prosecuted and convicted individuals under this law.

In July the chairman of a trade union in the European Commission (EC) verbally insulted and violently assaulted another EC official at a cafe in Brussels in the belief that she was Jewish. The assailant had been convicted in his home country of a separate crime and reportedly had a history of admiration for Italian fascist leader Benito Mussolini. Authorities were investigating the incident.

On May 24, at a commemoration of the four persons murdered at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in 2014, Brussels mayor Yvan Mayeur condemned the attack, saying that Brussels is a Jewish city because the Jewish community is an integral part of the city. Prime Minister Charles Michel also attended the event.

In September Prime Minister Michel vowed to apply a zero-tolerance policy toward anti-Semitism during visits on several Jewish institutions in Antwerp, calling anti-Semitism “unacceptable.” Michel was joined by the city’s mayor, Bart de Wever, and Jan Jambon, the federal minister of security and interior affairs.”

Bolivia

Jewish Population: The Jewish population numbered fewer than 500.

“Social bias against Israeli citizens remained prevalent. Jewish leaders reported the public often conflated Jews with Israelis and that during the year at least one opinion columnist invoked the Holocaust in criticizing Israel, suggesting that had some Jewish children not been saved during the Holocaust, then their descendants would not be alive today and therefore “able to oppress the Palestinians.””

Brazil

Jewish Population: According to the Jewish Federation, there were approximately 120,000 Jewish citizens, of whom approximately 50,000 were in the state of Sao Paulo and 20,000 in Rio de Janeiro State.

“It is illegal to write, edit, publish, or sell books that promote anti-Semitism or racism. The law enables courts to fine or imprison anyone who displays, distributes, or broadcasts anti-Semitic materials and mandates a two- to five-year prison term.

Neo-Nazi groups continued to operate in the southern states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Parana. A 2013 study estimated there were approximately 105,000 neo-Nazis in the three southern states and 29,000 in Sao Paulo State.

According to news reports, Professor Jose Fernando Schlosser, the dean of postgraduate studies at the Federal University of Santa Maria in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, was accused by the Israeli Confederation of Brazil of anti-Semitism after he sent a memorandum on May 15 requesting that department leaders provide a list of Israeli students and lecturers attending the university. The memorandum was sent at the request of student groups, including the

Association of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, according to the media, and reportedly sent to harass Israeli students and lecturers. A university spokesman apologized for the incident, noting the university's unequivocal stance against "racism," and stated university leadership had immediately called for a Federal Police investigation."

Brunei

Jewish Population: There was no known Jewish community in the country.

"Comments disparaging Jewish persons collectively were posted online and on social media."

Bulgaria

Jewish Population: The 2011 census indicated there were 1,130 Jews living in the country. Local Jewish organizations estimated the actual number at 5,000.

"Anti-Semitic rhetoric continued to appear regularly on social networking sites and as comments under online media articles. Jewish organizations remained concerned over government inaction and political leaders' passivity in addressing hate crimes, particularly hate speech. They complained that website administrators no longer deleted anti-Semitic comments.

In February the mayor of Sofia declined to approve a rally in honor of a World War II general, Hristo Lukov, known for his anti-Semitic views and pro-Nazi activities. Despite the decision, the Interior Ministry did not prohibit the rally and more than 500 persons gathered and marched briefly in downtown Sofia under tight security provided by police.

In February, Dyanko Markov filed a defamation suit against the editorial staff and oversight council members of the online human rights platform Marginalia, which criticized a Bulgarian member of the European Parliament for inviting Markov to a conference and showcasing him as "an unbreakable spirit" that opposed communism. According to the journalists, Markov was a member of the anti-Semitic organization Union of Bulgarian National Legions that supported the deportation of Jews during World War II. The Sofia Regional Court dismissed the lawsuit; as of November Markov was appealing the dismissal in the Sofia City Court.

A Sofia City prosecutor refused to prosecute a case from June 2014, when anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on the information plaque posted on the fence around the Central Synagogue in Sofia. The prosecutor asserted that the perpetrators had exercised their right of opinion with artistic means.

In August soccer fans attacked Israeli players and coaches, injuring some of them, during an exhibition match in Sofia. Some Bulgarian fans reportedly shouted anti-Semitic slogans at Israeli players during the game. Sofia police reportedly believed that the attacks were premeditated."

Canada

Jewish Population: Approximately 1 percent of the population is Jewish.

"The B'nai Brith Canada League for Human Rights received 1,627 reports of anti-Semitic incidents in 2014, up 28 percent from 2013, the highest annual number of incidents the organization had ever recorded. More than half of the reports (961) came from the province of

Ontario. Reports in 2014 included harassment (1,370 incidents, an increase), vandalism (238 incidents, a decline), and violence against persons (19 incidents, an increase), as well as attacks on synagogues, private homes and property, and community centers. For example, on February 23, unknown vandals in Montreal painted swastikas on four cars and left notes that included a bullet and a death threat. The vandals smashed the window of one of the cars with an axe. Authorities opened an investigation that continued as of October.”

Chile

Jewish Population: The Jewish community numbered approximately 20,500...

“The Jewish community reported threats via social media and acts of vandalism (graffiti) on Jewish community buildings. Much of the social media commentary and graffiti appeared to have been motivated by disagreement with the policies of the state of Israel. Government authorities responded promptly to community concerns and issued statements denouncing anti-Semitism.”

China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)

Jewish Population: According to information from the Jewish Virtual Library, the country’s Jewish population was 2,500 in 2012.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts during the year. The government does not recognize Judaism as an ethnicity or religion.”

Colombia

Jewish Population: The Jewish community had an estimated 5,000 members.

“The Jewish community reported continued negative comments on social media sites promoting hatred of Jews. It also reported the use of excerpts from The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the vindication of Hitler, or the negation of the Holocaust by social media users. The community reported one case of vandalism to a menorah statue in Bogota during the year.”

Costa Rica

Jewish Population: The Jewish Zionist Center estimated there were 3,000 Jews in the country.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts. In September the Simon Wiesenthal Center called for an investigation into a shop in San Jose that was selling Nazi collectibles, including soldier uniforms, helmets, medals, Hitler hero pins, Holocaust denial books, and concentration camp prisoners’ clothing. According to reports the government had no power to close the business since no specific laws ban the sale or purchase of Nazi or anti-Semitic merchandise. The shop owner reportedly removed all Nazi items from the store after receiving threats to his property.”

Croatia

Jewish Population: (approx.) According to the Coordination of Jewish Communities in Croatia, the country's Jewish community numbered between 2,000 and 2,500 persons.

“There were some reports of anti-Semitic acts during the year.

On June 18, prosecutors filed misdemeanor charges against the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) and multiple HNS officials after a swastika was bleached into the grass on the playing field in advance of the June 14 Euro qualifying match between Croatia and Italy in Split. President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, and Minister of Interior Ostojic condemned the incident and called for swift investigation and punishment of those responsible. The investigation continued at year's end.

The prime minister and the speaker of parliament marked Holocaust Remembrance Day in the parliament on January 27 alongside church officials and representatives of Jewish and Romani associations. On April 22, the president visited the Jasenovac Memorial to pay her respects to the victims of the World War II-era concentration camp that was located there. She condemned the torture and killings committed at Jasenovac. On April 26, the prime minister, the speaker of parliament, the foreign minister, and others attended the official ceremony at the Jasenovac memorial.”

Cyprus

Jewish Population: There were approximately 3,000 persons in the Jewish community, which consisted of a very small number of native Jewish Cypriots and a greater number of expatriate Israeli, British, and other European Jews.

“There were reports of verbal harassment of members of the Jewish community along with incidents of property damage.”

Czech Republic

Jewish Population: Although estimates varied, the country's Jewish population numbered approximately 10,000.

“Public expressions of anti-Semitism were rare, but small, fairly well organized right-wing groups with anti-Semitic views were active around the country. The Ministry of Interior continued to monitor the activities of such groups, increase cooperation with police from neighboring countries, and shut down their unauthorized rallies.

In 2014 the Ministry of Interior recorded 45 criminal offences with anti-Semitic motives, a 200 percent increase from 2013. During the same period, the Federation of Jewish Communities reported 43 anti-Semitic incidents, including damage to property, spray painting of anti-Semitic slogans and Nazi symbols, threats, and intrusions. The federation registered one physical attack against a Jew. The number of anti-Semitic articles written by Czechs on the internet, including incitement to violence against Jews, increased from 82 in 2012 and 156 in 2013 to 191 in 2014. A well-known anti-Semitic blogger continued his anti-Semitic internet postings, including statements denying the Holocaust.”

Denmark

Jewish Population: The NGO Jewish Community in Denmark estimated the Jewish population at between 6,000 and 8,000 persons.

“The safety of the Jewish community in the country remained a topic of extensive debate following attacks on February 14-15 in which Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, a 22-year-old Dane and with prior criminal convictions and reportedly associated with terrorist groups, allegedly shot and killed a film director and injured four police officers in Copenhagen at a free speech forum, “Art, Blasphemy, and Freedom of Expression.” Less than 24 hours later, he shot and killed a volunteer guard at the entrance of the Copenhagen Synagogue during a Bat Mitzvah celebration. Police shot and killed El-Hussein four hours after the second attack. Although authorities increased security in many areas after the attacks in January on the head office of the Charlie Hebdo magazine and a kosher supermarket in Paris, the government did not provide uniformed police presence at the synagogue until after the initial attack on February 14, despite the Jewish community’s earlier requests for additional protection. Prior to the February 14-15 attacks, but after the “Charlie Hebdo” attack, the government identified increased public funding for programming to prevent radicalization and extremism, in addition to previous programming and funding to counter violence extremism”

Ecuador

Jewish Population: There is a small Jewish community, including an estimated 250 families in Quito and 120 families in Guayaquil, according to the local synagogues.

“On April 9, President Correa tweeted “Heil Hitler” in response to a tweet reporting that former president Osvaldo Hurtado had called Correa a “typical fascist” during a speech in Panama.”

Egypt

Jewish Population: The country’s Jewish community is tiny and dwindling

“Criticism of Israel frequently reached the level of blatant anti-Semitism in public discourse. State-owned and private media used anti-Semitic rhetoric, including by academics, cultural figures, and clerics, with cartoons demonizing Jews. There were multiple reports of imams using anti-Semitic rhetoric in their sermons. Societal anti-Semitism was widespread. On March 5, teenagers shouting epithets desecrated graves at the Basateen Jewish cemetery in the south of Cairo.

For the fifth consecutive year, authorities cancelled the Abu Hassira celebrations scheduled for January, preventing an annual Jewish pilgrimage, including many Israelis, to the shrine of 19th-century scholar Rabbi Yaakov Abu Hassira. The cancellation followed a December 2014 administrative court decision to ban the festival permanently, stating the festival was a “violation of public order and morals” and “incompatible with the solemnity and purity of religious sites.”

An appeal continued in the 2014 case of 37 Islamists sentenced to death and 492 others to life imprisonment whom a Minya criminal court described as “demons” who followed Jewish scripture. The court also described the men as “enemies of the nation” who used mosques to promote the teachings of “their holy book, the Talmud.” The court had sentenced them for involvement in acts of violence, breaking into and burning a police station, burning police

vehicles, stealing weapons, killing one police officer, and attempting to kill another in Minya in 2013. Authorities scheduled the next hearing for January 8, 2016.”

Estonia

Jewish Population: The Jewish community numbered an estimated 2,500 persons.

“On February 7, a controversial art exhibit featuring comics, paintings, and video projects dealing with Holocaust opened in the Tartu Art Museum, funded in part by the Ministry of Culture. It claimed to deal with Holocaust trauma through humor and irony. The works were part of an installation, “My Poland: On Recalling and Forgetting,” that included video installations of Polish artists, one of which featured nude men and women playing tag in a gas chamber, while the second showed a Holocaust survivor having his concentration camp tattoo re-inked. According to the exhibit catalog, the artists stated that they intended the works to initiate discussion of the Holocaust and to address growing extremism and xenophobia. After public criticism and complaints, the Ministry of Culture directed the museum to remove the controversial videos from display. The museum did so and apologized to all parties.

On February 24, the youth wing of the far-right Estonian Conservative National Party, which won seven seats in March 1 parliamentary elections, organized a torchlight march to mark the country’s Independence Day. The march was viewed by some observers and media commentators as nationalistic and anti-Semitic. Members of a Swedish neo-Nazi youth organization participated at the invitation of EKRE’s youth organization.

On January 23, the Education Ministry in cooperation with the Estonian NATO Association sponsored a seminar for history and civics teachers from across the country to introduce them to best classroom practices for Holocaust commemoration.

On January 27, the government held an annual memorial event on Holocaust Remembrance Day at the memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Schools participated in commemorative activities throughout the country.”

Finland

Jewish Population: According to Statistics Finland, at the beginning of the year the Jewish community numbered 1,145 persons, most living in the Helsinki area.

“According to media reports, the publication Magneettimedia, known for its anti-Semitic content, resumed cost-free distribution on April 18-19, when 270,000 copies of a new 88-page edition were delivered to random recipients in the Oulu and Hame regions of the country. The issue contained a lengthy “open letter to the new prime minister” in which the authors called on the new government to “ensure at all costs that the Finnish population will continue to be white.” Although its publisher denied that the newspaper was anti-Semitic, instead calling it “critical of the Zionist elite” that includes “both Christians and Jews,” Magneettimedia continued to publish anti-Semitic content. The April issue contained articles on “Israel--major power of terrorism and assassinations,” “Why YLE lied in its program about the Holocaust,” “Israeli Politician--we are the wise men of Zion and rule America,” and “National Socialism--Counter-power of world politics.”

Magneettimedia had ceased publication at the end of 2013 following the court convictions of its former editor in chief, Juha Karkkainen, for hate speech. According to media reports, Markku Juutinen was the new editor in chief and the Pohjoinen Perinne (Northern Heritage) Association, a group associated with national socialist views, the new publisher.”

France

Jewish Population: There were approximately 550,000 Jewish residents in the country.

“NGO and government observers reported numerous anti-Semitic incidents during the year, including murders, physical and verbal assaults, and attacks on synagogues, cemeteries, and memorials. Anti-Semitic incidents and violence surged following the January 7 terrorist attack on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly in Paris. President Hollande and other government leaders condemned anti-Semitism during the year, particularly after the January 9 attack on a Paris kosher supermarket that resulted in the deaths of four Jewish hostages.

Both the Ministry of Interior and the Jewish Community Protection Service’s (SPCJ) annual report cited 851 anti-Semitic incidents in 2014, compared with 423 in 2013. On July 13, the SPCJ cited 508 anti-Semitic acts in the first five months of 2015, representing an 84 percent increase over the same period in 2014. Although they made up only one percent of the country’s population, Jews were the object of approximately 40 percent of hate crimes. The SPCJ accounting indicated that Jews were far more likely than members of other groups in the country to be the objects of verbal abuse or harassment.

On January 9, Amedy Coulibaly killed four Jewish hostages and critically injured four other Jewish hostages at a Hyper Cacher supermarket in Paris. Police killed Coulibaly during the incident. As of November, six men had been formally charged and placed in pretrial detention for their alleged links to Coulibaly. Following the attack, the government deployed 7,000 soldiers and 3,000 police to protect the 717 Jewish sites in the country.

On February 3, a knife-wielding man in Nice attacked three French soldiers providing security to a Jewish community center housing the consistory, a local radio station, and a Jewish NGO. Two of the soldiers were wounded in the attack and the assailant was arrested shortly after. President Hollande condemned the attack “in the strongest terms” and reaffirmed the state’s determination “to act to protect the security of our compatriots.” The soldiers had been deployed following the January terrorist attacks to protect Jewish religious and cultural sites throughout the country.

In October, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo joined Mayors United against Anti-Semitism, an initiative calling on municipal leaders to publicly address and take concrete actions against anti-Semitism.

On February 12, hundreds of graves at a Jewish cemetery in Sarre-Union in France’s Alsace region were desecrated, with tombstones pushed over and vaults opened. Five youths between the ages of 15 and 17 were arrested for damaging or destroying 250 tombs. The youths were charged with “the desecration of burial places due to the religion of the deceased” and with deliberately vandalizing property on public land, according to local prosecutor Philippe Vannier. The prosecutor stated that there was a clear “anti-Semitic motive” behind the alleged act.

On April 25, three assailants attacked a 53-year-old man as he was leaving a synagogue in Saint-Ouen. The assailants reportedly struck the victim on the head, spat on him, and repeatedly called

him a “dirty Jew” as he was on his way home following the Shabbat service. One of the attackers threatened the victim with a knife but fled when bystanders intervened. A police investigation continued as of November.”

Germany

Jewish Population: Observers estimated the country’s Jewish population to be between 100,000 and 250,000.

“Deficiencies in Holocaust education continued. Manifestations of anti-Semitism, including physical and verbal attacks, occurred at public demonstrations, sporting and social events, and in certain media. Apart from anti-Semitic speech, desecration of cemeteries and Holocaust monuments represented the most widespread anti-Semitic acts. Observers attributed most anti-Semitic acts to neo-Nazi or other right-wing extremist groups or persons. Observers also noted an increase of anti-Semitic attitudes among some Muslim youth.

In May, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere stated that anti-Semitic offenses rose 25 percent in 2014 to 1,596 following a decline in 2013. The minister indicated the rise was partially due to new reporting methods that more closely tracked the motivation of perpetrators, but he described the rise as “worrying.”

The annual FOPC report reported that the number of right-wing and violent anti-Semitic incidents declined to 31 in 2014 compared with 45 in 2013. It noted that membership in skinhead and neo-Nazi groups remained steady at approximately 6,000. Federal prosecutors brought charges against suspects and maintained permanent security measures around many synagogues.

On February 5, the Wuppertal Local Court placed three Palestinians on probation and gave two of them suspended 18-month sentences for attempted aggravated arson. They threw Molotov cocktails at the main synagogue in Wuppertal. Their actions caused 800 euros (\$880) in damage, although the devices failed to ignite.

Anti-Semitic speech and actions increased in the first 11 months of the year. Police investigated the incidents to determine if they violated bans on anti-Semitic speech and acts but sometimes terminated investigations without bringing charges because of lack of evidence.

On January 31, the Essen District Court sentenced an anti-Semitic agitator to three months in prison and fined him 200 euros (\$220) for his role in inciting violent behavior among approximately 1,000 anti-Israel and pro-Israel demonstrators in July 2014. State prosecutors discontinued investigation of 45 of 49 cases stemming from the demonstrations for lack of sufficient photographic evidence.

More events than in previous years took place across the country to mark the day of remembrance for victims of Nazism, since the year was the 70th anniversary of the liberation of many concentration camps. On January 27, Federal President Gauck spoke at the Bundestag’s annual special session on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp to pay tribute to those who were killed under the Nazi dictatorship.”

Greece

Jewish Population: Local Jewish leaders estimated the Jewish community consisted of approximately 5,000 individuals.

“Anti-Semitic rhetoric remained a problem, particularly in the extremist press, social networking sites, and certain blogs. The Central Board of Jewish Communities also expressed concern about anti-Semitic attitudes among representatives of a number of political parties, including the defense minister appointed in January. On January 12, the secretary general for religious affairs issued a press release explaining in detail “the legal status and the taxation of the Greek Jewish communities and institutions” in response to anti-Semitic views expressed in parliament and social media portraying Greek Jews as avoiding taxation. On September 23, the deputy minister of infrastructure, transport, and networks resigned on the day of his appointment following media controversy over anti-Semitic remarks previously expressed on his social media accounts. The Central Board of Jewish Communities also expressed concern about political cartoons and images in mainstream media that purported to equate financial negotiations with the country’s creditors with the Holocaust.

Anti-Semitic incidents included desecration of Holocaust monuments in central Athens and in the city of Kavala. Before the memorial in Kavala was unveiled, the Central Board of Jewish Communities stated that local authorities asked for the Star of David on the monument to be removed, or the dedication would be canceled. The secretary general of the Ministry of Culture, Education, and Religious Affairs criticized the actions of Kavala municipal authorities. Police reportedly responded quickly to reports of vandalism. Some government officials condemned anti-Semitism and participated in Holocaust remembrance events.

On January 9, the Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs announced a competition for student video productions on the Holocaust and Greek Jews, with winners receiving an educational trip to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum in Poland in cooperation with the Jewish Museum of Greece.

In June media outlets reported that a court convicted an alleged Golden Dawn supporter in Thessaloniki in connection with the vandalism of the local Jewish cemetery in 2010. He was found guilty of possession of a firearm and sentenced to eight months in prison, suspended for three years. A second perpetrator was sentenced to 15 months in prison without the right to appeal. Two minor accomplices were referred to juvenile court.

In October a small neo-Nazi group, Combat 18 Hellas, vandalized a Jewish cemetery in Athens, spraying graffiti with anti-Semitic messages and swastikas over the entrance. In a statement claiming responsibility for the act, the group stated that it had “made artistic renovations” to the cemetery and had “left the graves for next time.””

Grenada

Jewish Population: A Chabad Center was opened in 2013 to serve approximately 500 Jewish students at St. George’s University.

“There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination, including anti-Semitic acts. A Chabad Center was opened in 2013 to serve the Jewish students at St. George’s University.”

Hungary

Jewish Population: According to estimates from the World Jewish Congress, the Jewish population numbered between 35,000 and 120,000 persons.

“During the first six months of the year, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (MAZSIHISZ) registered 26 incidents of anti-Semitism but no physical assaults. The statistics represented a 30 percent drop from the first six months of 2014, when 36 cases were registered. According to MAZSIHISZ, the number of anti-Semitic incidents for all of 2014 was 73. MAZSIHISZ classified the 26 registered anti-Semitic incidents as hate crimes.

The Brussels Institute, founded by the Action and Protection Foundation (TEV), continued to monitor anti-Semitism and registered 49 acts of anti-Semitism through the end of October, including two cases of physical abuse. Law enforcement and judicial agencies continued to prosecute anti-Semitic incidents. During the first nine months of the year, police registered 251 cases of vandalism in cemeteries and religious buildings (including Jewish property).

Numerous extreme ethnic nationalist websites continued to publish anti-Semitic articles (see section 2.a.). According to NGOs, members of the extreme ethnic nationalist Jobbik Party limited their previous practice of making public anti-Semitic statements during the year.

In March police opened an investigation into the desecration of graves in the Jewish cemetery of Gyongyos. According to press reports, perpetrators damaged 15 to 20 graves, desecrated the remains of those buried there, and caused serious damage to the fence surrounding the cemetery. Police identified three male suspects between the ages of 15 and 17. The investigation remained pending. On March 22, the Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement condemning the act as barbaric.

On March 31, TEV released a survey, conducted by Median Polling that showed a slight decline in anti-Semitism in 2014 compared with 2013 and 2006, the first year of the survey. In 2014 approximately 32 percent of poll respondents held anti-Semitic views (21 percent held “strong anti-Semitic” views, 11 percent held “moderately anti-Semitic” views, and 69 percent did not hold anti-Semitic views), compared with 38 percent of respondents who expressed such views in 2013 and 34 percent in 2006.

On June 8, an online news portal carried a video taken sometime between 2006 and 2010 showing the former mayor of the town of Paszto, Imre Sisak, saying of Jews, “I have experienced through one person how base and dirty they are.” On the recording Sisak told a member of the local council that the only problem in the county was that “all the foreign trade companies ... are run by dirty Jews,” adding “only one thing matters to them, their own pocket.” Sisak was head of department at the Nograd County government office when the video was released but was fired on June 9 on instruction of the Prime Minister’s Office.

On March 6, at the initiative of a former Fidesz member of parliament, the Budapest Metropolitan Tribunal posthumously rehabilitated Balint Homan from his 1946 conviction by a people’s court in Hungary for war crimes. Homan was a historian and political figure who served

as a government minister in the 1930s and 40s and a member of parliament even during the rule of the fascist Arrow Cross party in 1944. He was a cosponsor of anti-Jewish legislation that stripped Hungarian Jews of their citizenship rights and an advocate for their deportation. In the spring and summer of 1944, 430,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz. Homan died in prison in 1951.

On June 12, the Szekesfehervar city council approved a proposal by a local NGO to erect a life-size bronze statue of Homan and donated approximately two million forints (\$7,200) for it to the NGO. Earlier the Ministry of Justice transferred 15 million forints (\$54,000) for the project to the NGO. Domestic and international Jewish organizations, including the World Jewish Congress, as well as foreign governments, three cabinet members, and several NGOs criticized the project. In response to the heavy criticisms, on December 11, the mayor of Szekesfehervar announced he had asked the NGO to reconsider the erection of the statue and to return the public funding received from the central government and the municipality. On December 15, Prime Minister Orban declared, “the government cannot support the erection of a statue in honor of a politician who collaborated with occupying powers and collaborated with oppressors of Hungary--whatever merits that politician may otherwise have had.” On December 17, the NGO informed the city mayor it no longer wished to erect a statue for Homan and returned the public funds. The statue was not erected by the end of the year.

The governmental project to establish a new Holocaust museum, the House of Fates, remained pending during the year. The project manager, widely criticized for failing to consult with Jewish communities and Holocaust experts on the content of the exhibit, officially remained in position. Senior government officials repeatedly assured that the museum would be opened only if Jewish community representatives reached consensus agreement on the content of museum exhibits.

The president, the prime minister, cabinet members, and opposition politicians routinely criticized extremist movements, condemned anti-Semitic incidents, spoke of the culpability of the state and its officials for the Holocaust, and attended events commemorating the Holocaust. On February 11, Csaba Latorcai, deputy state secretary for priority social affairs in the Prime Minister’s Office, reiterated that the government had declared “zero tolerance for anti-Semitism.” On March 9, the government assumed the chairmanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.”

Indonesia

Jewish Population: The Jewish population was extremely small.

“The Jewish population was extremely small. Some fringe media outlets published anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.”

Iran

Jewish Population: According to the Tehran Jewish Committee, approximately 9,000 Jews lived in the country, while media estimated there were between 18,000 and 20,000.

“The law recognizes Jews as a religious minority and provides representation in parliament. Samiak Moreh Sedgh is the only Jewish member of parliament.

Officials continued to question the history and uniqueness of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism remained a pervasive problem. A cultural institute organized a second international Holocaust cartoon contest in May (authorities held the first in 2005). The supreme leader issued a statement in September in which he questioned whether Israel would exist in 25 years.”

Iraq

Jewish Population: A small number of Jewish citizens lived in Baghdad, and there were unconfirmed reports that small Jewish communities existed in other parts of the country.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts. On October 11, the KRG Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs opened a representative office for Kurdish Jews. According to unofficial statistics, there were 430 Jewish families living in the IKR.”

Ireland

Jewish Population: According to the 2011 census, the Jewish community numbered 1,984 persons.

“There were few reported acts of anti-Semitism during the year. On October 28, a judge sentenced Dermont Mulqueen to five months in jail for weapons and public-order offenses after he engaged in performance art in a public square in Ennis in January. During the performance, he put an ax through a television set to launch “International Holocaust Hoax Day” as indicated by a sign he placed at the scene. At sentencing, the judge stated, “it is an historical fact that the Holocaust was the greatest crime perpetrated against a section of mankind in the history of mankind.”

Dublin’s Irish Jewish Museum, which had been under threat of closure for lack of funds, settled a dispute--on terms it considered unfavorable--with the executors of its late curator, who left the museum three adjacent buildings. The museum continued to face funding challenges that could force its closure.

On January 25, the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland organized a national Holocaust Day ceremony in which senior government ministers and public figures participated and government and community organizations cooperated in funding and organizing. In August the Holocaust Education Trust Ireland hosted a three-day international training seminar.”

Israel and The Occupied Territories

“Jews constituted approximately 80 percent of the population. The government often defined crimes targeting Jews as nationalistic crimes relating to the overall Palestinian-Israeli conflict rather than anti-Semitism.”

Italy

Jewish Population: There were approximately 30,000 Jews in the country.

“Anti-Semitic societal prejudices persisted. Some extremist fringe groups were responsible for anti-Semitic remarks and actions, including vandalism and publication of anti-Semitic material on the internet.

According to a study published by the Israel-based Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary Jewry, documented cases of anti-Semitism in the country doubled between 2013 and 2014, from 12 to 23.

On November 12, an orthodox Israeli national living in Milan was stabbed while walking home in one of the city’s heavily Jewish neighborhoods. The assailant fled, and no motive was officially declared by authorities.

In April anti-Semitic slogans appeared on schools and street walls in Rome after the death of the ex-chief rabbi of Rome, Elio Toaff.”

Jordan

Jewish Population: Aside from foreigners, there was no resident Jewish community in the country.

“Anti-Semitism was present in the media. Editorial cartoons, articles, and opinion pieces sometimes negatively depicted Jews without government response. The national school curriculum, including materials on tolerance education, did not include mention of the Holocaust.

On November 17, *Ro’ya*, a private television station hosted a journalist drawing an editorial cartoon showing an anti-Semitic stereotype and stating that Jews were the “mother of terrorism.””

Korea, Republic of

Jewish Population: The country has a small Jewish population consisting almost entirely of expatriates.

“The country has a small Jewish population consisting almost entirely of expatriates. In July, Samsung subsidiary Samsung C&T’s website posted what some perceived to be anti-Semitic remarks and cartoons targeting the leadership of Elliott Management, a foreign hedge fund. Elliott Management, a Samsung C&T minority stockholder, had opposed the merger of Samsung C&T with Samsung holding company Cheil Industries. Samsung C&T removed the material after international media and civil society groups began to protest the cartoons and issued a statement condemning anti-Semitism.”

Kosovo

Jewish Population: Fifty-four Jewish persons resided in the country, according to the Jewish Community of Kosovo.

“On June 20, the Jewish Community of Kosovo reported that a metal plaque with the Star of David on their community’s headquarters in Prizren was vandalized. Police did not make any arrests.”

Kuwait

Jewish Population: There were no known Jewish citizens and an estimated few dozen Jewish foreign resident workers.

“Negative commentary regarding Jews regularly appeared in the media. Anti-Semitic rhetoric often originated from self-proclaimed Islamists or conservative opinion writers. These columnists often conflated Israeli government actions with those of Jews more broadly. Reflecting the government’s nonrecognition of Israel, there are longstanding official instructions to teachers to expunge from English-language textbooks any references to Israel or the Holocaust. The law prohibits companies from conducting business with Israeli citizens, including transporting them on their commercial airlines.”

Kyrgyz Republic

Jewish Population: According to NGO Open Position, the Jewish population in the country was approximately 500-700.

“The law does not specifically prohibit espousing or printing anti-Semitic views. In 2011, the prosecutor general announced prosecutors would prosecute media outlets that published articles inciting national, racial, religious, or interregional strife under the criminal code. There were no reports of anti-Semitic comments in the mainstream media during the year.”

Latvia

Jewish Population: The Central Statistical Bureau Office of Citizenship and Migration reported that there were approximately 8,771 Jewish residents. The Council of Jewish Communities estimated the Jewish population at between 6,200 and 11,000.

“There were continued reports of anti-Semitic incidents, including some cases of anti-Semitic statements, but no reports of anti-Semitic attacks against individuals. Anti-Semitic sentiments persisted in some right-wing fringe elements of society. The government condemned anti-Semitism and responded to anti-Semitic incidents.

In October a World War II-era hand grenade was found near the Chabad Jewish private school in Riga. According to police there was no evidence to suggest that the grenade was aimed at the Jewish school or its property. Police were investigating the incident.

Jewish community representatives, government officials, and foreign diplomats attended the July 4 Holocaust commemoration ceremony in Riga. On November 29, President Raimonds Vejonis, Saeima Speaker Inara Murniece, and Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics spoke at a ceremony in commemorating the 25,000 mainly Latvian and German Jews who were killed there by Nazi German forces in November-December 1941. President Vejonis highlighted the need to acknowledge the role of local collaborators and take steps to restitute Jewish community properties.”

Lebanon

Jewish Population: At year's end there were approximately 100 Jews living in the country and 6,000 registered Jewish voters who lived abroad but had the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

“The national school curriculum materials did not contain materials on the Holocaust.”

Lithuania

Jewish Population: The Jewish community consisted of approximately 4,000 persons.

“There were reports of anti-Semitic acts and vandalism throughout the year. For example, on June 13, police found a swastika painted on a Jewish monument in Kaunas. Anti-Semitic expression was especially evident on the internet.

Police had instructions to take preemptive measures against illegal activities, giving special attention to maintaining order on specific historical dates and certain religious or cultural holidays.

In August, following a five-year investigation, police arrested a man suspected of placing the head of a pig at the entrance of a synagogue.

Some observers, including the Simon Wiesenthal Center and press reports, classified nationalist marches in Kaunas on February 16 and Vilnius on March 11 as “neo-Nazi” and reported the presence of participants adorned with Nazi symbols. According to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, municipal authorities rejected the center’s request that they prohibit the March 11 event or move it out of the center of the city.

On April 28, the March of the Living took place at the Paneriai Memorial in Vilnius. The march retraced the route of residents of the Vilnius ghetto to the massacre awaiting them in the Paneriai Forest. On September 22, Speaker of Parliament Loretta Grauziniene led the annual commemoration ceremony at the Paneriai memorial site.”

Malaysia

Jewish Population: Estimates of the country’s Jewish population were between 100 and 200 persons.

“Anti-Semitism was a serious problem across the political spectrum and attracted wide support among segments of the population. Government-owned newspapers and statements by current and former political officeholders sometimes blamed civil society activity on “Jewish plots” or “Jewish conspiracies.”

In June a member of the cabinet and secretary-general of UMNO claimed an online independent news outlet was part of a Jewish conspiracy against his party.”

Moldova

Jewish Population: The Jewish community numbered between 15,000 and 25,000 persons, including 2,000 living in Transnistria.

“The Jewish community reported one act of vandalism during the year. On the night of October 26, unknown individuals drew swastikas and wrote offensive messages on the walls of a Jewish school in Chisinau. Investigators opened a criminal case, but authorities had not identified the perpetrators by year’s end.

On several occasions, Jewish community leaders criticized the government’s efforts to combat anti-Semitism as insufficient. Property restitution continued to be a problem for the Jewish community, and Moldovan legislation does not yet exist to address it.

In an effort to promote tolerance and eradicate anti-Semitism and xenophobia, on November 26, parliament passed a law instituting January 27 as the Day of Commemorating the Victims of the Holocaust.”

Monaco

Jewish Population: The Jewish community numbered approximately 1,000 persons.

“On August 27, Prince Albert apologized before members of the Jewish community for the government’s arrest and deportation of 66 Monegasque Jews into Nazi German custody during World War II. Only nine survived. He unveiled a monument to those who perished in the Holocaust.”

Montenegro

Jewish Population: There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts against the country’s small Jewish community, which numbered approximately 500 individuals.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts. On January 27, the Jewish Community, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, and the Ministry of Education and Sports organized a commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Slobodan Skerovic High School in Podgorica.

In October more than 400 representatives from Jewish communities in the former Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries convened in Petrovac for the third annual Mahar conference. At the conference, organized by the country’s Jewish community, 26 leaders of the region’s Jewish communities met for the first time since 1995. The World Jewish Congress (WJC) noted the respect the country has shown for its local Jewish community. Milan Rocen, special advisor to the prime minister, recounted the country’s antifascist movement and its protection of Jews during the Nazi era. The WJC chief executive officer met with Foreign Minister Igor Luksic to discuss the problems facing the local Jewish community, including anti-Semitism in Europe.”

Morocco

Jewish Population: The Jewish population in Morocco numbered approximately 4,000 persons.

“Jews generally lived in safety, and the government provided them appropriate security. Reports of anti-Semitic acts were rare.”

Netherlands

Jewish Population: The Jewish population in the Netherlands numbered approximately 30,000 persons.

“Anti-Semitic incidents, including threats, verbal abuse, and the desecration of monuments and cemeteries, increased during the year. The most common incidents took place in e-mails, Twitter, and on the internet.

In April the NGO Center for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI), the country’s main chronicler of anti-Semitism, reported a sharp rise (71 percent) in incidents (to 171) in 2014 (the most recent available figures) largely due to a peak of incidents during the July 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict. It also registered a sharp increase in physical confrontations with unknown persons, which enhanced a sense of insecurity within the Jewish community. Persons who were recognizable as Jewish because of dress or outward appearance, for instance wearing a yarmulke, were targets of direct confrontations. CIDI expressed particularly concern about the increase of incidents at schools. In response to the CIDI report release, Deputy Prime Minister Asscher stated, “...we must combat anti-Semitism in neighborhoods, in the classroom, and anywhere it is necessary.”

In April fans chanted anti-Semitic slogans during a soccer game. According to press reports, dozens could be seen and heard chanting: “ Hamas, Hamas, Jews to the gas” among other things.

In 2014 the government-sponsored, editorially independent Registration Center for Discrimination on the Internet (MDI) also reported an increase in anti-Semitic expression. The center received 328 reports of anti-Semitism on the internet (24 percent of the total discrimination incidents it recorded), of which it considered 188 to be illegal, including 55 instances of Holocaust denial. The MDI also noted that anti-Semitic material appeared not only on websites of right-wing extremists but also among the ultra-left and pockets of the Muslim community. The center noted that criticism of Israel’s policies and appeals to boycott the country readily turned into anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, and expressions of wishing Jews dead. It forwarded what it considered the five most egregious cases to the prosecutor’s office.

The National Discrimination Expertise Center (LECD) coordinates the prosecution of cases of discrimination and hate speech, including inciting religious hatred. In 2014, the most recent year for which figures were available, the LECD registered 174 incidents, including 52 anti-Semitic ones. Indictments were issued in 59 percent of all cases, resulting in convictions in 90 percent of the cases. The most common sentences were fines and community service.

Jewish leaders and other political contacts reported an increased, palpable sense of fear among many in the Jewish community and relayed anecdotes of Jews, including schoolchildren, facing harassment and intimidation when wearing religious symbols in public areas in Amsterdam and elsewhere. For example, on February 28 in Amstelveen a mother and her 10-year-old son, who wore a yarmulke, were spat at and called names by two boys on a scooter; a few minutes later, the boys yelled profanities at other Jewish boys.

In response to the rise of these incidents, government ministers repeatedly issued firm statements during the year rejecting anti-Semitism and any form of discrimination. On March 23, Deputy Prime Minister Asscher noted there is “no place for that [discrimination] in the Netherlands.” Local governments provided supplemental security resources to protect Jewish institutions. On April 25, Prime Minister Rutte said, “we should stay alert and vigilant because anti-Semitism is around us, never far away, and that is unacceptable.” On July 16, Foreign Minister Koenders stated, “we should never give up the fight against racism and anti-Semitism,” and “we should not yield to the terror of intolerance and tackle anti-Jewish aggression hard.”

Government ministers regularly met with the Jewish community to discuss appropriate measures to counter anti-Semitism. The government worked with youth and other relevant NGOs on several projects, including making anti-Semitism a subject of discussion within the Turkish community, organizing roundtables with teachers on anti-Semitic prejudice and Holocaust denial, holding discussions with social media organizations on countering anti-Semitism among Islamic youth, promoting an interreligious dialogue, and renewing a public information campaign against discrimination and anti-Semitism. The MDI also completed a “counterspeech” campaign on the internet to repudiate online anti-Semitic allegations and Holocaust denial.

On February 22, approximately 200 Jews and Muslims took part in a march from a synagogue to a mosque to express solidarity against attacks on houses of prayer and against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

The Jewish populations in the country’s Caribbean islands were small. There were no official or press reports of anti-Semitic acts.”

Norway

Jewish Population: There were approximately 1,500-2,000 Jews in the country, 788 of whom belonged to Jewish congregations. Jewish community leaders reported the public generally supported the community.

“Anti-Semitism was bundled with other hate crimes in the country’s statistics. Police stated the number of anti-Semitism cases was too low to warrant a separate reporting mechanism.

The Jewish Community, the country’s largest Jewish organization, alleged a cartoon published on September 24 in Dagbladet, a major daily newspaper, comparing the Israeli government with Nazi Germany, showed that anti-Semitic views still permeated society. The community stated the illustration demonstrated society was tone deaf to anti-Semitism.

The Jewish Community reported several anti-Semitic incidents in schools. In one instance, it stated that a student at a high school in Oslo was reportedly subjected to taunts that compared showers at the gym with gas chambers at Auschwitz and that Hitler should have finished the job.

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development provided financing to the Jewish Community to conduct sensitivity training in schools while the Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities advised the government on anti-Semitism. Both organizations believed there was a lack of sensitivity to and awareness of anti-Semitic behavior.”

Pakistan

Jewish Population: There is a very small Jewish population in Pakistan.

“Anti-Semitic sentiments were widespread in the vernacular press. Hate speech broadcast by traditional media and through social media derogatorily used terms such as “Jewish agent” and “Yahoodi” to attack individuals and groups.”

Peru

Jewish Population: Estimates of the Jewish population ranged from 3,000 to 4,000 persons.

“There were reports of a minor anti-Semitic group, the Andean National Socialism Movement, operating in the rural Andean region, but no violence or harassment of the Jewish population was reported.”

Poland

Jewish Population: The Union of Jewish Communities estimated the Jewish population at approximately 20,000.

“As of September 30, the court has not yet begun the trial of six persons arrested in Lublin in January 2014 and accused of hanging anti-Semitic posters in Lublin. Authorities charged five arrestees with operating in a criminal group promoting fascism and inciting hatred and the sixth as an accomplice.

On October 31, two individuals destroyed nine tombstones at a Jewish cemetery in the town of Bielsko-Biala. Police arrested two individuals for this crime in early November. A similar incident took place at the same cemetery in August, when vandals damaged seven tombstones. In April unknown perpetrators destroyed 15 tombstones at the Jewish cemetery in the town of Olkusz. By the end of the year, police made no arrests in this case.

In January Holocaust survivors, politicians, and religious leaders gathered to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.”

Portugal

Jewish Population: Estimates placed the Jewish community at 3,000 persons.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts during the year. The government did not collect such statistics.

After Portugal passed a law granting descendants of Jews forced into exile centuries ago the right to citizenship, 250 applicants--mostly from Turkey--received official certification that they qualify.”

Qatar

Jewish Population: The country does not have an indigenous Jewish community.

“The country does not have an indigenous Jewish community. On occasion some of the privately owned Arabic-language newspapers carried cartoons with offensive caricatures of Jews and Jewish symbols. These occurred primarily in the daily newspapers *al-Watan*, *al-Sharq*, *al-Arab*, and *al-Raya* and drew no government response. In February a Saudi imam who had regularly lectured in Qatar delivered an anti-Semitic sermon from the Grand Mosque. Following the incident, authorities denied the imam future engagements.”

Romania

Jewish Population: According to the 2011 census, the Jewish population numbered 3,271

“Acts of anti-Semitism occurred.

Parliament amended the law prohibiting public denial of the Holocaust in June to prohibit Legionnaire organizations and symbols, in addition to prohibitions of fascist, racist, and xenophobic language and symbols in existing law. The oppression of Roma as well as Jews is included in the definition of Holocaust. Extreme right and pro-Legionnaire organizations criticized the new law, and the director of the Institute to Investigate Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile termed it a procommunist law. There were no prosecutions under the statute as of December 1.

Extremist organizations occasionally held high-profile public events with anti-Semitic themes and sponsored events--including religious services, symposia, and marches--to commemorate leaders of the pre-World War II fascist, xenophobic, and racist Legionnaire Movement, such as Horia Sima and Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. Such events took place in Tiganesti, Predeal, Targu Ocna, Aiud, Fetea, Bucharest, and other localities.

Some local and municipal governments occasionally honored Legionnaire members, permitted memorials to pro-Nazi historical figures and Holocaust deniers, and named streets in their honor. Material promoting anti-Semitic views and glorifying Legionnaires also appeared in the media, including on the internet.

On March 5, police identified the persons who vandalized a synagogue in Sighisoara in February after searching the homes of two teenagers. The two, who according to police were not members

of a neo-Nazi group, reportedly admitted to vandalizing the wall of the synagogue, drawing a swastika, the initials “SS,” and a xenophobic message in German. Police began an investigation, which was pending at year’s end.

In September a member of the Caracal branch of the Social Democratic Party was expelled from the party after expressing his admiration for Adolf Hitler on his Facebook page and posting anti-Semitic messages.

A survey of the Center for Public Opinion Polls, commissioned by the Wiesel Institute and released in July, revealed that 73 percent of the 1,016 persons surveyed had heard of the Holocaust, as contrasted with 34 percent who accepted the fact that there was a Holocaust in the country. Approximately 69 percent of the respondents blamed the Holocaust on Nazi Germany, while 19 percent considered that the wartime government of general Ion Antonescu was responsible. Of the respondents, 54 percent considered Antonescu a hero. The survey was conducted in May-June and had a margin of error of 3 percent. The respondents represented persons age 18 and older.

The government continued to implement the recommendations of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania (Wiesel Commission) Report and to promote Holocaust education in school curricula. The Ministry of National Education provided written materials and maintained a website with a guide for teaching about the Holocaust designed to assist teachers nationwide. Schools nationwide commemorated National Holocaust Remembrance Day on October 8. A wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Holocaust Memorial in Bucharest.

The government included teaching about the Holocaust in the country in the seventh, eighth, tenth, and 12th grade curricula. During the 2015-16 school year, 110 high school classes opted for the optional course, “History of the Jews--The Holocaust.” The Ministry of National Education sponsored national and international seminars on teaching Holocaust history and provided additional educational resources to help combat anti-Semitism.

On February 13 and 14, the Wiesel Institute and the teaching staff in Bacau sponsored a training course regarding the teaching of the Holocaust in schools. In October the Elie Wiesel National Institute for Studying the Holocaust in Romania and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation sponsored a seminar, Toward an Active Democracy--Against Right-Wing Extremism, in Predeal.

High-level officials made public statements against extremism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and Holocaust denial.”

Russia

Jewish Population: The 2010 census estimated the Jewish population at just more than 150,000. In February the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, however, stated that the actual Jewish population was nearly one million.

“Opinion polling data showed a low but consistent percentage of the general population agreed with anti-Semitic statements. A Levada Center poll published in August reported 7 percent of respondents believed Jews should have a limited presence in Russia. The poll was conducted on August 7-10 and had a margin of error of 3.5 percent.

On July 16, an unknown assailant shot Sergey Ustinov, the founder and director of the Museum of the History of Jews in Russia, in the head with a pneumatic pistol outside his office in Moscow. Ustinov survived the shooting. Although the motive for the attack was unknown, media speculated that anti-Semitism might have played a role.

In March unidentified individuals desecrated a monument in Volgograd marking the site of a mass execution of Jews by the Nazis during World War II. The monument had previously suffered similar defacements.

In May and June prosecutors conducted surprise inspections of multiple Jewish schools. The Prosecutor's Office of the Kirov district of Yekaterinburg removed textbooks from the Or Avner School to check for any signs of extremism. In Novgorod educational materials were also seized. According to Russian Jewish Congress president Yuri Kanner, his organization was not able to obtain clarifications from authorities on either action.

Unlike in previous years, there were no reports of anti-Semitic acts or slogans during nationalist demonstrations. The Russian Jewish Congress blamed the government for allowing ultranationalist groups to hold conferences and spread their ideology.

The government investigated anti-Semitic crimes, and some courts placed anti-Semitic literature on the Ministry of Justice's list of banned extremist materials."

Saudi Arabia

Jewish Population: There were no known Jewish citizens and no statistics available concerning the religious denominations of foreigners.

"Cases of government-employed imams using anti-Jewish, anti-Christian, or anti-Shia language in their sermons were rare and occurred without authorization by government authorities. The law requires government-employed imams to give all sermons delivered in mosques in the country. They must deliver sermons vetted and cleared by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. During the year the ministry issued periodic circulars to clerics and imams in mosques directing them to include messages on the principles of justice, equality, and tolerance and to encourage rejection of bigotry and all forms of racial discrimination in their sermons. According to the ministry, no imams publicly espoused intolerant views warranting dismissal during the year. Unauthorized imams continued to employ intolerant views in their sermons.

There were reports of anti-Semitic materials available at government-sponsored book fairs.

The government's multi-year Tatweer project to revise textbooks, curricula, and teaching methods to promote tolerance and remove content disparaging religions other than Islam began in 2007. As of the end of 2013, the program had received more than 11 billion riyals (\$2.9 billion) to revise the curriculum. As of the end of 2013, the government had also developed new curricula and textbooks for at least grades four through 10. Despite these efforts, some intolerant material remained in textbooks used in schools.

Editorial cartoons exhibited anti-Semitism characterized by stereotypical images of Jews along with Jewish symbols, particularly at times of heightened political tension with Israel. Anti-Semitic comments by journalists, academics, and clerics appeared in the media."

Serbia

Jewish Population: According to the 2011 census, 787 persons declared themselves as Jewish.

“While the law prohibits hate speech, translations of anti-Semitic literature were available from ultranationalist groups and conservative publishers. Anti-Semitic books were widely available in bookshops. Right-wing youth groups and internet forums continued to promote anti-Semitism and used hate speech against the Jewish community.

Holocaust education continued to be a part of the school curriculum at the direction of the Ministry of Education. The role of the collaborationist National Salvation government run by Milan Nedic during the Nazi occupation was debated as part of the secondary school curriculum. Some commentators continued to seek to minimize and reinterpret the role of national collaborators’ movements during World War II and their role in the Holocaust. On January 27, the government organized an official commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at which the country’s president spoke. The City of Belgrade, in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Serbia, commemorated Belgrade Holocaust Remembrance Day on May 10.”

Slovakia

Jewish Population: Jewish community leaders estimated, and the 2011 census data indicated, the size of the Jewish community at approximately 2,000 persons.

“Organized neo-Nazi groups with an estimated 500 active members and several thousand additional sympathizers occasionally spread anti-Semitic messages.

The Bystricky Kraj newspaper, controlled by Banska Bystrica governor and far-right People’s Party Our Slovakia (LSNS) leader Marian Kotleba, published a cartoon that appeared to have been copied from a Nazi-era anti-Semitic cartoon with only the accompanying text of “with Jews...you lose” removed. The cartoon showing a man with a long nose and curly hair holding banknotes was published next to a story criticizing “bankers” for the indebtedness of Banska Bystrica residents. Media outlets, including the daily newspaper Pravda, which uncovered the similarities with the Nazi-era cartoon, were quick to condemn the picture. The Banska Bystrica Regional prosecutor’s office opened an investigation, although it ultimately concluded that the newspaper had not violated any law. Kotleba’s spokesperson claimed the picture was an “illustrative stock photo.” The newspaper was previously supported by local taxpayers until the subsidies were cut off following complaints that Kotleba was using it to promote his party and incite hatred of minorities.

While direct denial of the Holocaust was uncommon, expressions of support for the World War II-era Slovak fascist state, which deported tens of thousands of Jews, Roma, and others to death camps, occurred.

Throughout the year far-right groups organized small events to commemorate dates associated with the Slovak fascist state and its president, Jozef Tiso. On March 14 and April 19, the far-

right People's Party Our Slovakia organized commemorations of the creation of the fascist Slovak state in 1939 and Tiso's execution in 1947.

The Nation's Memory Institute provided access to previously undisclosed records of Slovak regimes from 1939 to 1989. Jewish community leaders criticized the institute for paying too much attention to the persecution of prominent figures of the fascist Slovak state after the war and playing down their role in supporting anti-Semitic policies.

Government officials, including Prime Minister Robert Fico, commemorated the Day of the Victims of the Holocaust and of Racial Violence on September 9 at the Holocaust Memorial in Bratislava."

Slovenia

Jewish Population: There were approximately 300 Jews in the country.

"Jewish community representatives reported some prejudice, ignorance, and false stereotypes of Jews propagated within society, largely through public discourse. There were no reports of anti-Semitic violence or overt discrimination.

The government promoted antibias and tolerance education in primary and secondary schools, and the Holocaust was a mandatory topic in the history curriculum. In August the government declared the Maribor Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the country, a cultural monument of national importance."

South Africa

Jewish Population: The South African Jewish Board of Deputies estimated the Jewish community at 75,000 to 80,000 persons.

"There were reports of verbal abuse, hate speech, harassment, and attacks on Jewish persons or property.

On March 21, three Jewish teenagers ages 17 to 18 wearing kippot were leaving a movie theater in Johannesburg when confronted by three individuals who assaulted two of the three boys and made anti-Semitic comments. Police opened a criminal case of common assault and were attempting to use surveillance footage from the movie theater to identify the perpetrators. The case continued at year's end.

Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba reiterated the government's zero tolerance of anti-Semitism in response to concerns raised by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies regarding a proposal to end the country's dual citizenship policy that some media sources alleged specifically targeted Jewish citizens. In a September interview discussing the proposal to ban dual citizenship, Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Obed Bapela said the government did not support Israel's "apartheid policy," but he denied the dual citizenship proposal specifically targeted Israel.

On February 10, Mqondisi Duma, secretary of the Students Representative Council at the Durban University of Technology, called for the expulsion of Jewish students from the

university, especially those who did not support Palestine. Reports suggest Duma went on to say, “Israel is an apartheid, genocidal and terrorist state” and any student funded by Israel must immediately deregister. The university vice chancellor Ahmed Bawa publicly called the suggestion “totally unacceptable.””

Spain

Jewish Population: The Jewish community numbers approximately 48,000 persons

“The descendants of Sephardic Jews expelled from the country 500 years ago have the right of return as full Spanish citizens.

According to Jewish community leaders and the NGO Movement Against Intolerance, anti-Semitic incidents continued, including graffiti against Jewish institutions, although violence against Jews was rare. According to the Ministry of the Interior, there were 24 cases of anti-Semitism in 2014 (2 percent of all hate crimes), up from four in 2013. Government institutions promote religious pluralism, integration, and understanding of Jewish communities and history, but their outreach did not reach all of the country’s autonomous regions.

The Observatory on Anti-Semitism in Spain reported solidly rooted prejudices remain. The observatory reported 42 anti-Semitic events in 2014, mostly statements in print or audio-visual media (22), and to a lesser extent damage to property. Physical violence against individuals was almost nonexistent (one case), and the observatory identified seven cases of anti-Semitism in the public discourse.

In April the Civil Guard arrested a neo-Nazi group that painted a wall with neo-Nazi symbols and “Adolf Hitler was right.” In May authorities arrested a 28-year-old foreign national in Ribaforada for online incitement to kill Jews. An anti-Semitic tweet by Madrid city cultural official Guillermo Zapata was made public on June 13. The re-Tweeted message from 2011 read: “How would you fit five million Jews into [a small car]? In an ash tray.”

On August 17, organizers of the Rototom Sunsplash Festival in Benicassim (Castellon Province; Valencia Region) initially cancelled a concert by the Jewish American singer Matisyahu after receiving pressure from “BDS Valencia,” a self-described member of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The campaign to oust the singer started August 9 after BDS Valencia published an open letter urging cancellation of Matisyahu’s concert due to the artist’s participation in pro-Zionist festivals and statements that Palestine does not exist. Matisyahu, in a Facebook post on August 18, described continued pressure by festival organizers to make an explicit statement on the Israel-Palestine conflict, “to pacify the BDS people.” The Ministry of Foreign Affairs subsequently issued a statement decrying the organizers’ initial decision. Organizers reversed their position within two days and reinvited the singer.”

Sri Lanka

Jewish Population: The Jewish population remained very small

“Some anti-Semitic sentiments existed in the country. For example, on October 19, the American Jewish Committee launched the Sri-Lankan-Jewish Friendship Association during its two-day visit to the country. On November 6, the association’s establishment led a group of Muslim

organizations to protest in Mardana against its formation. The protesters objected to the role played by government ministers in the association's establishment, particularly Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Harsha de Silva. Citing alleged atrocities committed by the state of Israel against Palestinians, they demanded any agreement reached for the association's establishment be voided."

Sudan

Jewish Population: A very small Jewish community remains in the country, predominantly in the Khartoum area...

"While there were no reports of anti-Semitic acts, societal attitudes were not tolerant of Jewish persons."

Sweden

Jewish Population: Leaders of the Jewish community estimated there were 20,000 Jews in the country.

"The Swedish Commission for Government Support to Faith Communities estimated there were approximately 9,000 practicing members. The National Council for Crime Prevention registered 267 anti-Semitic crimes in 2014, compared with 193 in 2013, a 38-percent increase. This was the highest-ever number of anti-Semitic crimes and included threats, verbal abuse, vandalism, graffiti, and harassment in schools. Anti-Semitic incidents were often associated with events in the Middle East and actions of the Israeli government, and Swedish Jews were at times blamed for Israeli policies.

In 2014 the most common types of anti-Semitic crimes reported were hate speech (34 percent), unlawful threats and harassment (30 percent), and destruction or defacement of property (20 percent). The number of instances of destruction or defacement of property increased 10 percent from 2013. In 69 percent of the cases, the perpetrators were not previously known to the victim, and the crimes were committed mainly on the internet or in public places. Authorities initiated an investigation in 70 percent of the cases reported in 2013, the latest year for which detailed information was available, but brought formal charges in only 3 percent.

In January television reporter Petter Ljunggren wore a kippa (or yarmulke) on camera in the city of Malmo to test attitudes toward Jews. The reporter was cursed at and told to "get out." At one point, a dozen men shouting anti-Semitic slogans threatened the reporter, and residents in apartments overhead threw eggs at him. In a follow-up program, the reporter interviewed individuals who had appeared in the first program and asked why he was met with such hatred, to which they responded that it was due to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

After the February 14-15 attacks in Copenhagen in which two persons, including a volunteer guard at a synagogue, were killed, police increased protection of synagogues in the country. In August the County Administrative Board of Skane gave Malmo's Jewish congregation permission to place four video cameras outside the city's synagogue as a security measure.

A young civil society leader received numerous threats during the year because of his work to promote religious tolerance and combat anti-Semitism. A Malmo rabbi attacked in 2014 continued to be subjected to verbal and physical harassment during the year.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center left in place its travel warning first issued in 2010 for Jews traveling in southern Sweden, because Jews in Malmo could be "subject to anti-Semitic taunts and harassment."

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency cooperated with religious communities on a national level to promote dialogue and prevent conflicts leading to anti-Semitic incidents. Representatives from the national unit trained police officers to detect hate crimes and visited high schools to raise awareness of such crimes and encourage more victims to report abuses. The government made available information in several languages for victims of hate crimes and provided interpreters to facilitate reporting. Police hate-crime units existed throughout the country.

During the year several prominent politicians participated in public demonstrations in support of the country's Jewish community, such as a human "ring of peace" around the great synagogue of Stockholm in February, and condemned anti-Semitic violence and sentiments."

Switzerland

Jewish Population: According to the Swiss Israelite Association (SIG), there were approximately 18,000 Jewish individuals residing in the country as of November.

"According to the Swiss Israelite Association (SIG), the largest Jewish communities were in Zurich, Geneva, Lausanne, Basel, and Bern.

SIG recorded an increase in anti-Semitic statements and acts, but observed a shift away from Muslim perpetrators to right-wing extremists during the year. SIG also noted perpetrators increasingly disclosed their identity, particularly on social media. The 2014 Anti-Semitism Report, produced jointly by SIG and the Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism, cited 66 anti-Semitic incidents (excluding anti-Semitic hate speech online) in the German-speaking part of the country in 2014, three times as many as in 2013. Although the report identified young Muslim men as responsible for most of the 2014 incidents, it also stressed that these individuals represent a minority and there are no far-reaching anti-Semitic sentiments among the general Muslim population in country. Anti-Semitic statements on social media were particularly aggressive, with at least several hundred persons in the German-speaking part of the country having posted and/or "liked" anti-Semitic comments. SIG linked the escalation of anti-Semitic incidents in 2014 to the conflict in Gaza. In 2014 the Geneva-based Intercommunity Center for Coordination against Anti-Semitism and Defamation reported 270 anti-Semitic incidents in the French-speaking region, 21 of which it deemed serious. The report recorded the most cases ever during its 11-year existence and called the escalation of anti-Semitic incidents "very troubling."

During the year the Zurich state prosecutor's office sentenced 10 of 15 individuals against whom SIG pressed charges in July 2014 following the circulation of violent anti-Semitic statements on several Swiss Facebook pages in the days before a pro-Palestine demonstration in Zurich. Social media postings included comments such as "we must annihilate the Jews" or "the only good Jew is a dead Jew." According to SIG anti-Semitic comments such as these received more than 1,000 "likes" on Facebook. The prosecution suspended three investigations due to the inability of investigators to identify the perpetrators.

In October the state prosecutor's office of Zurich-Sihl launched criminal proceedings against several right-wing extremists who attacked an orthodox Jew in July. One of the main perpetrators, a 27-year-old singer in the neo-Nazi band Amok, reportedly spat in the Jewish man's face and yelled "Heil Hitler!" The accused faced up to three years in prison for violating the country's antiracism law.

As part of the national census, the Federal Council undertook a five-year pilot project to survey racist and discriminatory sentiments nationwide, including racism, anti-Muslim sentiment, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and intolerance. Anti-Semitic attitudes remained stable throughout the test period, with one participant in 10 admitting to negative opinions about Jews in each of the biannual surveys."

Syria

Jewish Population: NGOs estimated fewer than 20 Jews remained in the country.

"According to the media and the Syrian American Council, in late May 2014 government forces destroyed the Eliyahu Hanabi synagogue, the country's oldest, in an artillery attack on Jobar, a rebel-held neighborhood in Damascus. Government and opposition forces accused each other of burning and looting the Jobar synagogue.

The national school curriculum did not include materials on tolerance education or the Holocaust."

Tajikistan

Jewish Population: The small Jewish community...

"There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts. The small Jewish community had a place of worship and faced no overt pressure from the government or other societal pressures. Emigration to other countries continued."

Thailand

Jewish Population: The resident Jewish community is very small...

"The resident Jewish community is very small. There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts, however, Nazi symbols and figures were sometimes displayed on merchandise and used in advertising."

Tunisia

Jewish Population: An estimated 1,500 Jews live in the country.

“In March in Tunis, vandals destroyed the grave of 18th century Jewish sage Rabbi Masseoud Elfassi. Media reported that motives for the vandalism were unknown but speculated it was the work of looters. After the incident, President Essebsi increased security around the cemetery and other Jewish sites, and promised a European rabbinical body he would firmly protect the Jewish community and its institutions.”

Turkey

Jewish Population: Jewish residents continued to leave the country permanently because of anti-Semitism. According to the chief rabbinate in Istanbul, the number of Jews in the country dropped to 17,000 during the year, from 19,500 in 2005.

“Jewish residents continued to leave the country permanently because of anti-Semitism. According to the chief rabbinate in Istanbul, the number of Jews in the country has dropped since 2005.

Incidents of anti-Semitism were common. Media and elected officials regularly spoke out against Israel and generalized their statements toward Jews more broadly. For example, a “documentary” film, *Mastermind*, that was broadcast repeatedly on a progovernment television station in March and was posted on progovernment websites, alleged the greatest threat to the Turkish nation was 3,500 years of Jewish world domination.

Despite anti-Semitic comments by some leaders and media and incidents of vandalism against the Jewish community, the government took a number of positive steps during the year. The country has commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27) since 2011. On March 26, the government’s five-year restoration of the Great Synagogue of Edirne concluded, and the synagogue was reopened.”

Ukraine

Jewish Population: According to census data and international Jewish groups, an estimated 103,600 Jews lived in the country,

“According to the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities (VAAD), there were approximately 300,000 persons of Jewish ancestry in the country, although the number may be higher. Before Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine and the attempted annexation of Crimea by Russia, approximately 30,000 Jewish persons lived in the Donbas and 10,000 lived in Crimea, according to VAAD.

Jewish community leaders reported that societal anti-Semitism was low, and authorities took steps to address problems of anti-Semitism when they arose. Institutional anti-Semitism was rare, and VAAD stated that attacks were isolated and individuals were responsible rather than organized groups. VAAD claimed that negative attitudes towards Jews and Judaism continued to be low, although some individuals continued to espouse anti-Semitic beliefs. VAAD believed

that some attacks were provocations meant to discredit the government. In September the Jewish pilgrimage to the Uman burial site of Rabbi Nachman took place without significant incidents.

On March 27, attackers severely beat a Jewish physician in Kharkiv in what he said was an assault with anti-Semitic overtones. Oleksandr Dukhovskoi, a pediatric neurosurgeon, told the media that he believed competitors ordered the assault, but that the attack was anti-Semitic in nature, as the assailants shouted, “Jew face, get out of town and out of the country.” The incident remained under investigation at the end of the year.

According to VAAD there were 16 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in the first nine months of the year, slightly more than at the same time in 2014. Graffiti swastikas continued to appear in Kyiv and other cities. For example, in February vandals in Kremenchuk spray-painted swastikas on the grave of Sarah, the daughter of Rabbi Nakhman of Breslov, and attempted to set it on fire. According to police between July 28 and August 1, vandals smashed 19 headstones at a Jewish cemetery in Uzhhorod. On August 28, vandals set fire to tires at a Holocaust memorial in Melitopol. Other Holocaust memorials, monuments, and museums desecrated included ones in Odesa, Nikopol, and Novomoskovsk.

During the year attackers vandalized the Babyn Yar monument in Kyiv six times, a substantial increase over 2014. On four occasions vandals spray-painted swastikas on the monument and on one occasion in August doused it with a foul-smelling liquid. On September 13, vandals set fire to tires at the monument. The government responded by increasing security and posting guards at the site.

Senior government officials and politicians from various political parties continued efforts to combat anti-Semitism by speaking out against extremism and social intolerance and criticizing anti-Semitic acts.

In eastern Ukraine pro-Russian separatist leaders made anti-Semitic remarks throughout the year. On February 2, the so-called leader of separatists in Donetsk Oblast, Oleksandr Zakharchenko, stated that “miserable Jews” ran the Ukrainian government. On June 22, Igor Plotnitsky, the so-called leader of separatists in Luhansk Oblast stated that Jews were responsible for the Euromaidan movement and running the Ukrainian government. Separatists also seized a Jewish school in Luhansk.”

United Arab Emirates

Jewish Population: There were no synagogues for the very small foreign Jewish population (which likely constituted less than 1 percent of the population).

“It could, however, conduct regular prayer services in private homes. Some media contained anti-Semitic remarks.

There were reports of anti-Semitic materials available at some book fairs.”

United Kingdom

Jewish Population: The 2011 census recorded the Jewish population of the UK as 263,346.

“The NGO Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 473 anti-Semitic incidents across the UK in the first six months of the year, a 53-percent increase over the first six months of 2014. The increase was most pronounced during the first three months of the year and may have reflected an increase in the reporting of anti-Semitic incidents due to raised communal concern about anti-Semitism following the attacks in Paris and Copenhagen, rather than a significant increase in incidents. The CST recorded 88 anti-Semitic incidents on social media, comprising 19 percent of the total. The CST recorded 44 violent anti-Semitic assaults, double the 22 incidents of this type recorded during the comparable period in 2014. These incidents, two of which were categorized as “extreme violence,” made up 9 percent of the total.

On January 26, Baroness Jenny Tonge tabled a written question in the House of Lords asking whether the government would “plan to encourage Jewish faith leaders in the United Kingdom publicly to condemn settlement building by Israel and to make clear their support for universal human rights.” She said British Jews must condemn Israel if they want to avoid increased expressions of anti-Semitism. Tonge sits in the House of Lords as an independent peer after the Liberal Democrats expelled her from the party in 2013 for commenting that, “Israel would not be there forever,” and then refusing to apologize. In 2010 she received criticism for comments that invoked blood libels.

On March 23, a mob broke into the Ahavas Torah synagogue in London, where worshippers were marking the end of the Sabbath, shouting “Kill the Jews,” assaulting at least one man, smashing windows, and vandalizing the building. Scotland Yard arrested six individuals in connection with the attack.

On July 4, a Jewish teenager was seriously injured in an attack at a tram stop in northern Manchester. Police believed comments made during the attack were anti-Semitic and were investigating it as a hate crime.”

Uruguay

Jewish Population: The Jewish Central Committee (JCC) reported that the Jewish community, with an estimated population of 15,000...

“The Jewish Central Committee (JCC) reported that the Jewish community lived fully integrated in the society and was able to preserve the Jewish-Uruguayan identity in a natural and peaceful coexistence with the rest of the society. Unlike in the previous year, the JCC reported no significant anti-Semitic incidents.

In January the government granted media networks time to broadcast a commemorative message for International Holocaust Day. The Montevideo Municipality opened in its main hall the art exhibit “Ana Frank, a still valid history” of the Ana Frank Center of Amsterdam. The National Institution of Human Rights issued an official commemorative press release, and congress paid homage during a special session. Jewish leaders reported effective cooperation with police investigating incidents of anti-Semitism. The JCC continued to organize seminars to raise awareness of anti-discrimination legislation.”

Uzbekistan

Jewish Population: Observers estimated the Jewish population at 10,000, concentrated mostly in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. Their numbers continued to decline due to emigration, largely for economic reasons.

“There were no reports of anti-Semitic acts or patterns of discrimination against Jews. The Jewish community was unable to meet the registration requirements necessary to have a centrally registered organization, but there were eight registered Jewish congregations.”

Venezuela

Jewish Population: There were an estimated 9,000 Jews in the country.

“There were reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, including anti-Semitism.

There were no confirmed reports of anti-Semitic acts by the government, but Jewish community leaders expressed concern about anti-Semitic statements made by high-level government officials, and they assessed that many other anti-Semitic incidents occurred from January to May. The government-sponsored website Aporrea.org often published editorials asserting Venezuelan Zionists were conspiring against the government. On October 8, National Assembly President Cabello stated that El Hatillo Mayor David Smolansky carried out a Zionist political project against the government; on October 19, Cabello asserted Ricardo Haussman, a professor at a foreign university, was a lobbyist for financial Zionism, which was waging an “economic war” against Venezuela.”

Yemen

Jewish Population: Fewer than 150 Jews remained in the country, residing in two communities in Sana’a and Amran Governorate.

“Weak law enforcement put the Jewish community at risk, particularly following the Houthi takeover in Sana’a in September 2014, after which anti-Israeli rhetoric increased and blurred into anti-Semitic utterances. Prior to the outbreak of conflict, the transitional government continued to protect the Sa’ada Jewish community in Sana’a and provided secure housing and a living stipend.

Yemenis were proud to sustain a small Jewish community with some charities reportedly donating food and gifts during Jewish holidays, and media coverage of the country’s Jews was generally positive. The most prominent exception was the slogan of the Houthi movement, “Death to Israel, a curse on the Jews.”

Members of the Jewish community are not eligible to serve in the military or federal government. Authorities forbid them from carrying the ceremonial Yemeni dagger.”